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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/680,611	10/07/2003	Richard M. Lum	Lum 6-11-9-8	5769	
7590	04/26/2005	EXAMINER			
Docket Administrator (Room 3J-219) Lucent Technologies Inc. 101 Crawfords Corner Road Holmdel, NJ 07733-3030				HOFFMANN, JOHN M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		1731		

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/680,611	LUM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	John Hoffmann	1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 18-22 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 18-22 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heitmann 5609666 in view of Fleming 5221306 and Suto 4367085 and optionally in view of Berkey 5917109.

See how the references were applied previously.

As to new claim 24: As per the previous Office action, Fleming has a difference of 0.01 mm or 10 microns. Alternatively, it would have been obvious to have as small a difference as possible because Fleming teaches differences are detrimental.

Claims 18-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berkey 5917109 alone or in view of Koenig 5314517, Imoto 4123242 and Karbassiyoon 4597785.

Figure 4 of Berkey shows the preform with central core 22, cladding layer 27 and overcladding layer 28. Berkey does not teach the inner diameter varying by less than 1%.

It would have been obvious to make tube 27 (and thus the inner diameter of 28) to be as uniform as desired.

From MPEP 2144.04

B. Changes in Shape

In re Dailey, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966) (The court held that the configuration of the claimed disposable plastic nursing container was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular configuration of the claimed container was significant.).

From MPEP 2144.04

A. Changes in Size/Proportion

In re Rose , 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955) (Claims directed to a lumber package "of appreciable size and weight requiring handling by a lift truck" where held unpatentable over prior art lumber packages which could be lifted by hand because limitations relating to the size of the package were not sufficient to patentably distinguish over the prior art.); *In re Rinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 189 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1976) ("mere scaling up of a prior art process capable of being scaled up, if such were the case, would not establish patentability in a claim to an old process so scaled." 531 F.2d at 1053, 189 USPQ at 148.).

In Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc., 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 830, 225 USPQ 232 (1984), the Federal Circuit held that, where the only difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device was not patentably distinct from the prior art device.

Using the secondary references: Imoto discloses that "severe uniformity" in fiber is required and variations in preform diameter effect the uniformity (col. 1, lines 14-17 and 52-57). Koenig teaches that core preform diameter is "critical" and variations degrade transmission characteristics of the final fiber (col. 1, lines 26-34.) And Karbassiyoon teaches that differences in core/clad ratios is "very disadvantageous" and that the ratio should be kept in a "very close range" (col. 1, lines 43-69). It would have been obvious to use the most uniform diameter tube in the Berkey process, because it is well known that non-uniformities create problems in the final fiber.

Claim 19: it would have been obvious to make the preform as large as possible so as to make as much fiber as possible.

Claims 20-21: Berkey does not teach the OH concentration. However, col. 2, lines 25-32 Berkey discloses that wet glass (i.e. contaminated with hydroxyl ions) causes attenuation in optical fibers. Furthermore, Berkey does dry the overcladding (col. 6, 46-56). It would have been obvious to dry the glass to reduce the amount of hydroxyl ions to the greatest extent possible – so as to eliminate the contamination/attenuation of hydroxyl impurities.

Claims 22 and 24 it would have been obvious to keep all variations in diameter as small as possible for the reasons given above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 25 Jan 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Applicant's discussion regarding Suto were considered, but they are not deemed to be very relevant because Applicant is essentially attacking Suto individually.

Specifically as indicated in the rejection, it would have been obvious to have ALL diameters constant – not just the single diameter that Suto teaches.

As to the assertion that the overcladding is relevant only to mechanical properties and not to optical properties. There is no evidence to support this.

From 37 CFR 1.132 Affidavits or declarations traversing rejections or objections.

When any claim of an application or a patent under reexamination is rejected or objected to, any evidence submitted to traverse the rejection or objection on a basis not otherwise provided for must be by way of an oath or declaration under this section.

Examiner does not doubt that Applicant can practice a method where the overcladding has the mechanical/optical properties that applicant asserts. However, the claim is not limited to such a process. The process is broad and can encompass thin cladding layers and thick overcladding layers. For example, in Heitmann, the first cladding layer is very thin; applicant has not provided any evidence that suggests the layers over (i.e. the over cladding layers) the first thin Heitmann layer do not conduct light.

It is well established that the evidence relied on to establish unobviousness must be commensurate in scope with the claimed subject matter. See In re Kerkhoven, 626 F.2d 846, 851, 205 USPQ 1069, 1072-1073 (CCPA 1980) and IN re Clemens, 622 F.2d 1029, 1035, 206 USPQ 289, 296 (CCPA 1980).

More importantly, the Heitman process is the relevant process, not Suto. Suto is merely cited to show it would have been obvious to have each of the Heitman layers be

constant. Applicant's arguments regarding Suto's preform, core and cladding are mostly irrelevant. It is the Heitman preform that is the basis of the rejection.

Conclusion

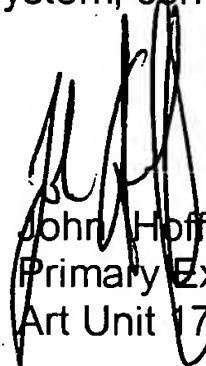
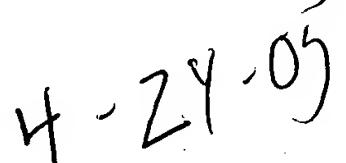
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Hoffmann whose telephone number is (571) 272 1191. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00- 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John Hoffmann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731


Jmh